

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON A REMOVAL ACTION
AT THE
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA**

The Marine Corps and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invite the public to comment on a proposed cleanup of chemical-contaminated soil at the Marine Palms Housing area at the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MAGTFTC MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms, California. The proposed cleanup area is referred to as Installation Restoration Site #6, Former Waste Water Treatment Plant. The cleanup is described in three documents out for public review: a draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), a draft Action Memorandum, and a draft Negative Declaration. The EE/CA gives details of the studies performed, the cleanup goal, the various alternatives considered, and the proposed cleanup actions. The draft Action Memorandum is a legal document that specifies the cleanup action. The Negative Declaration is the result of an environmental assessment performed by DTSC that concludes that the proposed cleanup actions will not have a significant effect on the environment. This proposed removal action is in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The proposed Negative Declaration is in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The removal action involves the excavation and removal of approximately 6,100 cubic yards of soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and pesticides. The excavated soil will be taken to appropriate landfills or hazardous waste treatment/disposal facilities. The purpose of this removal action is to protect human health and the environment. The removal action is expected to begin in April 2003 and be completed in twelve weeks.

The public is encouraged to review the three documents during the comment period that runs from February 20, 2003 through March 22, 2003. The draft EE/CA and draft Action Memorandum can be viewed at the MAGTFTC MCAGCC website at <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/MiscMenu.asp> or at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center locations shown below. The draft Negative Declaration can be viewed on the DTSC website at www.dtsc.ca.gov, or at the DTSC Cypress office location shown below.

Administrative Record File

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Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command
Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Division
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Combat Center Library

Building 1528, MAGTFTC MCAGCC
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278

Written comments must be postmarked or emailed no later than March 22, 2003. Comments on the draft EE/CA and draft Action Memorandum should be sent to Mr. Leon Bowling at the address above. Comments on the draft Negative Declaration should be sent to Mr. Douglas Bautista at the DTSC Cypress office address above. For more information, please contact the Project Managers.